



## *Rhode Island Success Story*

### **Pawtuxet Valley Prescription and Surgical Center, Coventry, Rhode Island**

**T**he Pawtuxet Valley Prescription and Surgical Center is a one-stop shop providing high-tech, full-service pharmaceutical care. The company is an industry leader in technological innovations designed to meet the quality care needs of their patients, and provide traditional retail and institutional pharmacy services, high tech home infusion therapy services, durable medical equipment, oxygen therapy, and custom pharmaceutical compounding services.

Leo R. Blais started Pawtuxet Valley Prescription Center 23 years ago, shortly after receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Rhode Island, College of Pharmacy. The company has grown from a small retail pharmacy serving patients in Kent County to a 26,000 square foot complex providing its services on a 24/7 basis, 365 days a year to patients across Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and portions of Connecticut. The retail pharmacy physically expanded in 1984 and four years later the company began its home infusion services to residential and institutional care units.

By 1994, increased market demands forced Blais to lease an additional 5,000 square feet for a centralized home infusion care unit. This required major capital expansion, the hiring of more nurses, and the construction of a new compounding lab. The company quickly outgrew the available space and leased an off-site facility to handle billing functions and the new durable medical equipment division.

With the assistance of a SBA-backed loan from Bank Rhode Island, Blais negotiated financing to purchase the entire 26,000 foot complex in 2001. The company had previously been leasing a portion of the space there. Expansion and renovation of the complex began almost immediately with the creation of a new executive office suite and a revolutionary automated prescription dispensing complex as part of the retail pharmacy.

Blais has successfully identified and penetrated various niche markets by providing traditional and innovative pharmacy and medically-related services. pharmacy and infusion care provider.



**Hi-Tech Dispensing:** Leo R. Blais, R.Ph. scans medication trays at the Pawtuxet Valley Prescription and Surgical Center's Automated Prescription Dispensing Complex.

The company's ability to modify and improve the delivery of health care services has been applauded by all facets of the health care industry.

The new automated medicine dispensing laboratory will result in significant cost reductions to numerous institutional health care facilities. In an era of drastically rising health care costs, the capital investment by PVPSC for this innovative system is a testament to their commitment to provide affordable quality health care.

Custom compounding provides patients with specialized dose forms not available elsewhere. This is an invaluable service to patients of all ages, particularly for pediatric patients, terminally ill patients and elderly patients. Pawtuxet Valley Prescription and Surgical Center also sponsors free immunization and training clinics for both patients and health care professionals to provide them with current medical information and therapy alternatives.

By integrating numerous facets of health care services in one location, Blais has created a company which meets almost every pharmaceutical and medical equipment need. What once was a small retail pharmacy is now Rhode Island's only fully integrated pharmacy and infusion care provider.

